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Abstracts and Keywords

Politics of Memory and History

Dangiras Mačiulis. Collective Memory as a Weapon – History of the GDL in the Soviet Propaganda during the War between Nazi Germany and the USSR

During the Soviet-German war, the Soviet Union turned the images of collective memory into a propaganda tool. By the beginning of 1941 Lithuania had already been transformed into one of the Soviet republics of the USSR, hence images from the history of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania appeared in the Soviet propaganda. The article discusses how the images from the GDL history appeared in the Soviet anti-fascist propaganda discourse during World War II, which images from the GDL history the Soviet propaganda employed, and for which purposes these images were used in the first place. Propaganda targeted two major groups – Lithuanians living on the territories occupied by Germany, and Lithuanians who fought in the Red Army. To mobilize both these groups, propaganda used the images of collective memory mainly from more than two centuries of the GDL history, marked by a constant struggle with the Crusaders.

Keywords: Collective Memory, Propaganda in USSR, Historical Memory in Lithuania, Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Nationalism.

Aliaksiej Lastoŭski. Working with the Communist Past in Slovakia: Key Factors and Dynamics

The article deals with the process of farewell with the communist past in Slovakia. The author particularly analyzes the process of transfer of power and the configuration of the elites in the context of decommunization. He also notes that the politics of memory in Slovakia has been significantly influenced by Slovak-Czech relations and the process of accession to the European Union.

Keywords: Slovakia, Post-Communist Transformation, Decommunization, Politics of Memory.

Tacciana Ščurko. Representation of Women in the Textbooks on History of Belarus (2009–2012)

The article presents a gender analysis of Belarusian textbooks on history of Belarus. The study shows that modern Belarusian textbooks continue to reproduce the traditional view on history

as mostly male/public and on the position of women in society. The official textbooks do not include the contribution of women to the development of society. They represent mainly the military, economic, and political history, ignoring the history of everyday life, which leads to the exclusion of women`s contribution from the picture of the past. Their activity is perceived as personal, family, private, and therefore insignificant. Textbooks represent the world where men are more active than women. Men more often have power and access to all resources. The number of male personalities is much higher than that of female.

Keywords: School Textbooks, Gender Analysis, Women's History, Gender History, History of Belarus.

Politics of Identity

Voĺha Cadko. **Polesie and the Attempt of Nation-Building (1988–1995)**

The article evaluates the experience of nation-building in the case of ideological activity of Social and Cultural Association "Polisse". The author analyses causes of its appearance, the tools used by its creators and the potential of the ethno-political myth they produced. The myth created by "Polisse" was a comprehensive and theoretically elaborated concept, which radically contradicted the previously adopted mythological narratives. Despite a wide range of ideas and rich argumentation, the myth failed to become a part of local identity, since it was rejected by the population of the region.

Keywords: Polesie, National Movement, "Polisse", Nationalism, Identity Construction, Polesie Literary Language, Regionalism.

History of Ideas

Rimantas Miknys. **World War I and the Renewal of the Statehood of Historical Lithuania (Lithuania and Belarus) in the Thought of Michał Römer**

The article discusses the history of Lithuanian statehood as envisioned by the lawyer, politician and activist of Lithuanian and Polish culture Michał Römer. The author analyses his concept's ideas, political circumstances and the main reasons why it failed. Although Römer urged activists from the National Central Committees in Warsaw and Cracow to put the issue of Historical Lithuania, important for Polish independence and regional geopolitical stability, on the political agenda in Poland, Polish politicians interpreted his plans as a "political intrigue".

Keywords: Ethnographic Lithuania, Belarus, Federation of Poland and Historical Lithuania, Statehood of Historical Lithuanian.

Radzivon Popieĺ. **"Point of Support" or "Lithuanian Occupation": View of the Leaders of Ukrainian National Movement of the 19th – First Half of the Twentieth Century on the Accession of the Ukrainian Lands to the GDL**

The article attempts to analyze the views of leaders of the Ukrainian national movement of the 19th – first half of the 20th centuries on the question of incorporation of the Ukrainian

lands into the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The author considers how the Ukrainian national activists estimated various problems of the Lithuanian period of Ukrainian history. He studies the works of Ukrainian historiography as well as political and journalistic works. The author compares the views of the national democratic and monarchist conservative groups of the Ukrainian national movement on the Lithuanian period. He also draws parallels with contemporary historiography of Ukraine.

Keywords: History of Ukraine, Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Ukrainian National Movement, Ukrainian Historiography, Historical Memory.

Political History

Aliaksandr Bystryk. **Newspaper "Biełarus" (1913–1915) and Its Place in the Belarusian Society of the Early Twentieth Century**

The author tries to study the scantily explored phenomenon of Belarusian religious-patriotic movement as well as the history of its organ – "Biełarus" newspaper. In particular, the author tries to determine preconditions for emergence of the edition; he reviews language policy of the Roman-Catholic Church in Belarus and the history of development of the religious-patriotic movement. The author examines some aspects of history and structure of the newspaper, including the biographies of its creators, and analyses newspaper audience on the basis of readers' letters. He also analyses reaction to the emergence of "Biełarus" newspaper on the pages of other Viĺnia editions.

Keywords: History of Belarus, Catholic Movement in Belarus, Belarusian National Movement, Belarusian Printing, "Biełarus" Newspaper.

Tacciana Kasataja. **Problems of Historiography of Evangelical Christian Baptists: Traditions of the BSSR Period**

The article discusses the main problems of the Soviet historiography of Evangelical Christian Baptists (ECB). State control, methodological and thematic constraints resulted in biased image of ECB in the Soviet society. Applied sociological and religious studies, which were part of religious policy and formed the image of believers in the official discourse, dominated in the research on this subject. Soviet historiography presents not only a source of studying state-religion relations, it contains a wealth of factual material on the activities of ECB in BSSR. Besides, the analysis of Soviet era research helps to get rid of many stereotypes and constraints in the formation of the modern Belarusian historiography.

Keywords: Historiography, History of BSSR, Evangelical Christian Baptists, Religious Policy, Religious Movement in Belarus.